



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

Dry Pea Production
Austrian Winter Pea Production
Lentil Production
Sugar Beet Production
Fall Potato Production
2008 Crop Year Summary
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Ag Stats Book Available

November 1 Crop Production Forecast

Montana dry edible pea production is down 34 percent from last year to 2.45 million cwt. Harvested area increased by 3 percent to 223,000 acres, but yields decreased by 600 pounds per acre to 1,100 pounds.

Austrian winter pea production in Montana is forecast to be 36,000 cwt, up from 26,000 cwt last year. Harvested area was unchanged at 4,000 acres. Most of Montana's Austrian winter peas were used for grazing or forage.

Montana's lentil production is forecast at 608,000 cwt, down 28 percent from last year. Harvested area decreased 5 percent from 2007 to 81,000 acres and yield dropped 240 pounds per acre to 750 pounds.

Sugar beet production for Montana is expected to be 814,000 tons, down 30 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, at 26.5 tons per acre, is up 1.0 ton from the October 1 forecast and up 1.8 tons per acre from 2007. Harvested acreage is down 16,300 acres from last year to 30,700 acres.

Montana's fall potato production is forecast at 3.67 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year. Harvested area is down 400 acres from last year to 10,800 acres. The yield is forecast to be 340 cwt per acre, up 3 percent from 2007.

In the United States, dry edible pea production is forecast at 12.1 million cwt, down 24 percent from the 2007

estimate. Area for harvest, at 832,800 acres, is 3 percent above a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 1,455 pounds per acre, down 505 pounds from last season.

U.S. Austrian winter pea production is forecast at 111,000 cwt, down 13 percent from 2007. Area harvested is forecast at 9,000 acres, down 18 percent from last year. Average yield is expected to be 1,233 pounds per acre, up 78 pounds per acre from last season.

U.S. lentil production is forecast at 2.39 million cwt, down 30 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 266,000 acres, down 10 percent from the previous year. Average yield is expected to be 900 pounds per acre, down 255 pounds per acre from 2007.

Sugar beet production in the U.S. for 2008 is forecast at 28.2 million tons, 1 percent above the October forecast but 12 percent below 2007's production of 31.9 million tons. Growers expect to harvest 1.05 million acres, slightly below the October forecast and the lowest acreage since 1960. The yield is forecast at 26.8 tons per acre, slightly above the October forecast and up 1.2 tons from the previous year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record.

U.S. fall potato production for 2008 is forecast at 373 million cwt, down 8 percent from 2007. Area harvested, at 918,200 acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate, but 8 percent lower than last year. The average yield, forecast at 407 cwt per acre, is down 2 cwt from last year's record high yield and, if realized, will be the second highest yield on record.

Montana 2008 Crop Year Summary

By the end of October 2007, seeding for the 2008 winter wheat crop was 98% complete and 81% had emerged. Most areas of Montana received above normal precipitation the first week of October 2007, with moderate precipitation the rest of the month.

During the month, the state experienced warm temperatures. At the end of the month, the winter wheat crop condition was rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 47% fair, 45% good, and 5% excellent, a little lower than the 2007 crop.

Temperatures were above normal the first half of November 2007 and colder, near normal, the second half, and the state received light to moderate precipitation. By the end of the month, 50% of the winter wheat crop was rated good to excellent. Topsoil moisture condition was rated 10% very short, 46% short, 43% adequate, and 1% surplus, and subsoil moisture condition was rated 24% very short, 45% short, 30% adequate, and 1% surplus.

Montana received below normal precipitation in most areas during December 2007, and temperatures were above normal. Winter wheat had little snow cover, but wind and frost damage was minimal. By month's end, winter wheat was rated 2% very poor, 11% poor, 54% fair, 29% good, and 4% excellent.

Montana received below normal precipitation during January 2008. High temperatures were mostly in the 40s to 50 degrees. Winter wheat had little snow cover, but wind and frost damage was minimal. At month's end, winter wheat crop condition was rated 3% excellent, 29% good, 53% fair, 12% poor, and 3% very poor. The topsoil moisture condition rating was 32% adequate to surplus, and subsoil moisture condition adequate to surplus was rated 21%.

During February 2008, the state received light to moderate precipitation. At the end of the month, topsoil moisture was rated 34% adequate to surplus, and subsoil moisture condition was rated 24% adequate to surplus. At the end of the month, winter wheat had less snow cover than January, but the crop condition was rated 3% excellent, 32% good, 49% fair, 13% poor, and 3% very poor. (continued on page two)

November 1, 2008 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/
Montana		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Sugar Beets	Tons	47.5	31.6	47.0	30.7	24.7	26.5	1,161	814
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	11.3	10.9	11.2	10.8	330.0	340.0	3,696	3,672
Dry Peas	Cwt	235.0	242.0	217.0	223.0	17.0	11.0	3,689	2,453
Lentils	Cwt	87.0	83.0	85.0	81.0	9.9	7.5	842	608
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	20.0	19.0	4.0	4.0	6.5	9.0	26	36
United States		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,268.8	1,092.1	1,246.8	1,051.6	25.6	26.8	31,912	28,179
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	1,010.8	928.4	996.8	918.2	409.0	407.0	407,517	373,496
Dry Peas	Cwt	847.5	874.0	811.3	832.8	19.6	14.6	15,903	12,120
Lentils	Cwt	303.0	273.0	295.0	266.0	11.6	9.0	3,408	2,393
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	29.0	26.5	11.0	9.0	11.6	12.3	127	111
1/ Preliminary.									

Montana 2008 Crop Year Summary (continued from page one)

Montana received light to moderate precipitation during March. High temperatures were mostly in the 50s to 60s. Topsoil moisture conditions were 30% adequate to surplus at month's end, compared to 75% adequate to surplus in 2007. Winter wheat crop condition was rated 34% good to excellent, significantly lower than the previous year's 71% good to excellent.

April temperatures were below normal for most of the month. Precipitation varied from below normal the first two weeks to light to moderate the last two weeks. Spring planting was 48% well underway by the end of the month, and producers made some progress seeding grains. Barley was 48% seeded, with 6% of the crop emerged. Other spring wheat was 48% seeded, with 2% emerged. Durum wheat was 26% planted. Oats were 46% seeded with 6% emerged. The corn crop was 9% planted, dry peas were 68% planted with 1% emerged, and lentils were 31% planted.

Eastern Montana received above normal precipitation the first week of May, while the western and central districts received light precipitation. Almost all areas of the state reported

above normal precipitation the third week, but only light precipitation was received the last week of the month. High temperatures were mostly in the 70s and 80s. Many areas reached the low 90s at mid-month. At month's end, topsoil moisture condition was rated 79% adequate to surplus, and subsoil moisture condition was rated 46% adequate to surplus. Winter wheat condition was rated 6% very poor, 18% poor, 44% fair, 29% good, and 3% excellent. Spring planting was nearing completion. Barley was 96% seeded, with 73% of the crop emerged. Other spring wheat was 96% seeded, with 67% emerged. Durum wheat was 91% seeded, with 54% emerged. Oats were 85% seeded with 60% emerged. The corn crop was 91% planted, with 54% emerged, dry peas were 100% planted with 72% emerged, and lentils were 90% planted, with 64% emerged.

In June, most of Montana received adequate to above normal precipitation the first half of the month and below normal precipitation the rest of the month. High temperatures were in the 70s and 80s until the last week when the highs reached into the 90s. At month's end, all of the small grains, pulse crops, and most of the oilseeds were progressing slower than last year. The first cutting of alfalfa

hay and other hay was behind last year and the five-year average.

The state received light to moderate precipitation the first week of July dropping off to light precipitation the rest of the month. Hot weather prevailed during July. Crop progress continued slower than last year and the five year average. Farmers had just begun harvesting winter wheat the last week, well behind last year and the five-year average. The first cutting of alfalfa hay was nearing completion and the second cutting was just underway at month's end.

Hot weather continued and lasted the entire month of August. Rainfall was light to moderate across the state the first week. Precipitation was below normal the rest of the month, except for the northwest and north central districts, which received above normal moisture the last week. At month's end, harvest of small grains lagged behind 2007 with the crop and percent harvested as follows: Winter wheat, 94%, spring wheat, 80%, durum wheat, 72%, barley, 75%, oats, 81%, dry peas 96%, lentils, 87%, second cutting of alfalfa hay, 85%, and second cutting of other hay, 65%.
(continued on back page)

September Ag Prices Received

September full month crop prices were mixed when compared to August 2008. Montana's winter wheat price was \$7.26 per bushel, down \$0.52 from August, spring wheat decreased \$0.14 to \$8.23 per bushel, but durum wheat gained \$0.20 to reach \$12.10 per bushel. Feed barley increased \$0.27 from the previous month to \$4.06 per bushel, and malt barley was up \$0.51 to \$6.23 per bushel.

The mid-October price for alfalfa hay dropped \$10.00 from September to \$122.00 per ton and all other hay was down \$2.00 to \$104.00 per ton. The mid-October grain prices were all lower with winter wheat at \$5.85 per bushel, spring wheat was \$6.78 per bushel, durum wheat was \$9.34 per bushel, feed barley was \$2.75 per bushel, and malt barley was \$5.81 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were mixed when compared to August 2008. Steers and heifers increased \$1.00 to \$104.00 per cwt, but cows decreased \$5.00 to \$50.90 per cwt. The price for beef cattle rose \$2.40 to \$95.00 per cwt, and calves jumped \$3.00 to \$111.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased \$2.50 to \$15.50 per cwt and

lambs dropped \$4.20 to \$96.80 per cwt. The full month September milk price decreased \$1.10 per cwt from August to \$19.40. Mid-October steers and heifers were \$107.00 per cwt, cows were \$45.80 per cwt, beef cattle were \$94.10 per cwt, calves were \$112.00 per cwt, and milk was \$19.00 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for September and changes from August were as follows: winter wheat was \$6.99 per bushel, down \$0.32, spring wheat was \$7.77 per bushel, down \$0.45, durum wheat was \$11.80 per bushel, down \$0.60, oats were \$3.29 per bushel, up \$0.14, all barley was \$5.74 per bushel, up \$0.63, steers and heifers were \$99.30 per cwt, down \$0.70, calves were \$113.00 per cwt, down \$3.00, sheep were \$23.80 per cwt, down \$2.50, lambs were \$99.60 per cwt, unchanged from August, all hogs were \$52.70 per cwt, down \$7.90, and all milk was \$18.20 per cwt, down \$0.20.

The U.S. mid-October crops prices were as follows: winter wheat was \$5.29 per bushel, spring wheat was \$6.60 per bushel, durum wheat was \$9.82 per bushel, all wheat was \$5.79 per bushel, oats were \$2.71 per bushel, malt barley was \$5.57 per bushel, feed barley was

\$3.47 per bushel, all barley was \$4.97 per bushel, alfalfa hay was \$172.00 per ton, and other hay was \$122.00 per ton. The mid-October livestock prices were as follows: Steers and heifers were \$93.80 per cwt, cows were \$49.20 per cwt, beef cattle were \$88.60 per cwt, calves were \$108.00 per cwt, all milk was \$17.60 per cwt, all hogs were \$50.70 per cwt, and all eggs were \$1.02 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October, at 145 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 9 points (5.8 percent) from September. The Crop Index is down 17 points (9.8 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 5 points (3.8 percent). Producers received lower prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle and higher prices for sweet corn, broccoli, lettuce, and eggs. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of soybeans, corn, cottonseed, and cotton offset decreased marketings of milk, wheat, sweet corn, and grapes.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	September 2007	October 2007	September 2008	October 2008
Prices Received	140	141	154	145
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/ Ratio 2/	162	163	191	188
	87	86	81	77

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	U N I T	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Sept 2007	Aug 2008	Sept 2008	Sept 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2007	15-Oct-08	15-Oct-08
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	6.25	7.78	7.26	6.99	-0.52	+1.01	5.85	5.29
Durum Wheat	Bu	7.05	11.90	12.10	11.80	+0.20	+5.05	9.34	9.82
Spring Wheat	Bu	6.12	8.37	8.23	7.77	-0.14	+2.11	6.78	6.60
All Wheat	Bu	6.26	7.96	7.83	7.43	-0.13	+1.57	6.35	5.79
All Barley	Bu	3.74	5.65	6.12	5.74	+0.47	+2.38	5.66	4.97
Feed Barley	Bu	3.76	3.79	4.06	4.50	+0.27	+0.30	2.75	3.47
Malt Barley	Bu	3.73	5.72	6.23	6.07	+0.51	+2.50	5.81	5.57
Oats	Bu	2.62	na	2.89	3.29	0.0	+0.27	na	2.71
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	78.00	128.00	132.00	176.00	+4.00	+54.00	122.00	172.00
All Other Hay	Ton	74.00	120.00	106.00	122.00	-14.00	+32.00	104.00	122.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	77.00	127.00	128.00	161.00	+1.00	+51.00	119.00	157.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	107.00	103.00	104.00	99.30	+1.00	-3.00	107.00	93.80
Cows	Cwt	48.70	55.90	50.90	54.50	-5.00	+2.20	45.80	49.20
Beef Cattle 1/ Calves	Cwt	97.10	92.60	95.00	94.40	+2.40	-2.10	94.10	88.60
Sheep	Cwt	130.00	108.00	111.00	113.00	+3.00	-19.00	112.00	108.00
Lambs	Cwt	20.70	18.00	15.50	23.80	-2.50	-5.20	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	102.00	101.00	96.80	99.60	-4.20	-5.20	na	na
	Cwt	22.50	20.50	19.40	18.20	-1.10	-3.10	19.00	17.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

Montana 2008 Crop Year Summary

(continued from page two)

Montana received above normal precipitation the first week of September, moderate precipitation the second week, and light precipitation the last half of the month. Temperatures were a little cooler than normal the first part of September, but turned higher than normal. By mid-month, winter wheat was 97% harvested. By the end of September, winter wheat seeding was 52% complete, with 7% emerged, behind last year and the five-year average. All spring grains harvest was slower than last year and the five year average, except durum wheat which was on pace with the five year average.

Winter wheat production for 2008 was 94.4 million bushels, 13% above the 2007 production of 83.2 million bushels. Producers seeded 2.6 million acres, 16% above the 2007 acreage. Producers harvested 2.42 million acres, up from last year's acreage of 2.19 million acres. The 2008 average yield, at 39.0 bushels per acre, is 1 bushel above 2007.

Other spring wheat production was 59.5 million bushels, up 8% from 2007 because more acres were planted and harvested with a higher yield. The final seeded acreage was 2.55 million acres, up 100,000 acres from last year's acreage of 2.45 million. Producers harvested 2.48 million acres, up 80,000 acres from the

previous year's acreage of 2.40 million. Yields averaged 24.0 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from the previous year.

Durum wheat growers seeded 590,000 acres, up 110,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 570,000 acres, up 20% from 2007. The average yield was 19.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year. Total production for 2008 was estimated at 10.8 million bushels, down 5% from last year's 11.4 million bushels.

In 2008, producers seeded 860,000 acres of barley, 40,000 acres fewer than 2007. Producers harvested 740,000 acres, 20,000 acres below last year. The final yield for 2008 was 51.0 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from the previous year. Production was estimated at 37.7 million bushels, 19% above last year.

Oat production was estimated at 1.5 million bushels, down 16% from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 60,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 2007. Harvested acreage was set at 30,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from the previous year. Average yield, at 51.0 bushels per acre, was 1 bushel below 2007.

Alfalfa hay production is estimated at 3.3 million tons, down 13% from the previous year. Alfalfa hay yield was 2.0 tons per acre, down 0.3 ton per acre from 2007. Harvested area, at 1.65 million acres, is unchanged from

last year. Other hay yield is 1.3 tons per acre, down 0.2 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 1.3 million tons, down 4% from 2007, but harvested area, at 1.0 million acres, is 100,000 acres above 2007. All hay production is estimated at 4.6 million tons, down 11% from last year. All hay yield is estimated at 1.7 tons per acre, down 0.3 ton per acre from 2007.

2008 Montana Agricultural Statistics Book Available Soon

The Montana Agricultural Statistics 2008 book will be available in early December. It is compiled by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office, and printed with funds from the Montana Department of Agriculture. The annual report contains state and county crop and livestock estimates, farm income, prices, farm numbers, Montana's rank among states, and other statistical data.

To receive a copy of the Montana Agricultural Statistics 2008 book, please contact Wendy Bruski at 1-800-835-2612 or 406-441-1240. The price for the printed book is \$10.00. There is no charge for Montana farmers and ranchers or people who supply survey information. The annual report is also available on our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/.

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Milk Production	Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed	Farm Labor

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